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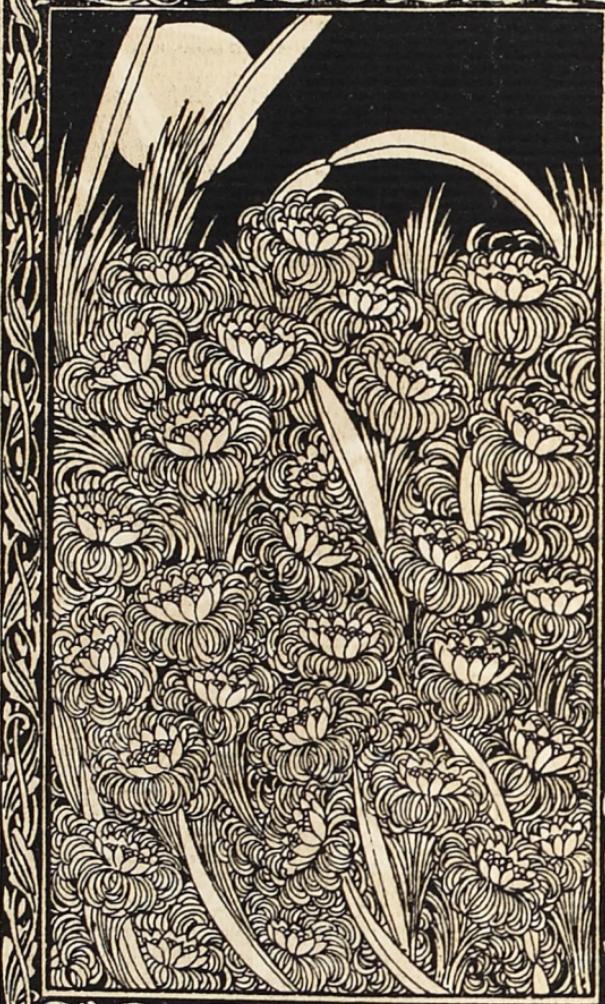
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## THE NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS,



FLOWER OF THE MOON! STILL WHITE IS HER BROW WHOM WE WORSHIPED ON EARTH LONG AGO; YEA, PURER THAN PEARLS IN DEEP SEAS, AND MORE VIRGIN THAN SNOW. THE DULL YEARS VEIL THEIR EYES FROM HER SHINING, AND VANISH AFRAID, NOR PROFANE HER WITH AGE—THE IMMORTAL, NOR DIM HER WITH SHADE.

IT IS WE ARE UNWORTHY, WE WORLDLINGS, TO DWELL IN HER WAYS. WE HAVE BROKEN HER ALTARS AND SILENCED HER VOICES OF PRAISE. SHE HATH HARKENED TO SINGING MORE SILVERN, SEEN RAPTURES MORE BRIGHT. TO A PLANET MORE PURE SHE HATH FLED ON THE WINGS OF THE NIGHT—FLOWER OF THE MOON!